



2/13/04
8/Election
2/9/04

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: N.A. Rudy et al.

Attorney Docket No.: DESS117968

Application No.: 10/068,470

Group Art Unit: 3724

Filed: February 5, 2002

Examiner: J.D. Prone

Title: CONVEYOR BELT ASSEMBLY

RESPONSE TO SECOND RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Seattle, Washington 98101

January 13, 2004

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TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

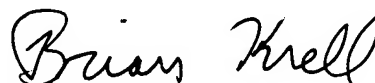
The Office Action mailed December 15, 2003 (hereinafter "Office Action"), issued an election requirement requesting applicants to elect one species from each of three groups of allegedly patentably distinct species of the claimed invention. More specifically, the Office Action states that the applicants must elect one species from Group 1, which is stated as containing: Species A: Figure 4; Species B: Figure 14; and Species C: Figure 15, one species from Group 2, which is stated as containing: Species D: Figure 5; Species E: Figure 16; and Species F: Figure 17, and one from Group 3, which is stated as containing: Species G: Figure 8; Species H: Figure 9; Species J: Figure 10; Species K: Figure 11; Species L: Figure 12; and Species M: Figure 13. Applicants elect to prosecute Species A of Group I, Species D of Group II, and Species G, without traverse. Claims 1-26 are readable upon elected Species A of Group I. Claims 1-26 are readable upon elected Species D of Group 2. Claims 1-9 and 14-26 are readable upon elected Species G of Group 3.

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Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in light of the above election. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with questions regarding this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

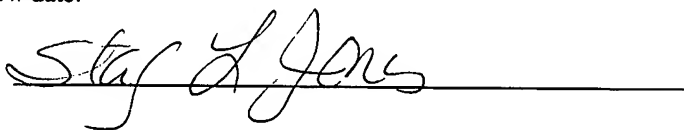
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date: January 13, 2004
BDK:slj



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